(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has no specific programme for providing assistance to States for mapping water resources. Necessary studies are undertaken by respective State Governments themselves. However, technical assistance is provided by various organisations under the Ministry of Water Resources to States as and when requested.

Proposal for financial assistance by Government of Punjab

1697. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has sent any proposal to the Centre for financial assistance to strengthen its canals, which require urgent attention;

(b) whether it is a fact that Punjab faces a serious problem of water logging and solvation specially in the districts of Faridkot, Muktsar, and Ferozpur; and

(c) whether the Centre has considered the proposal; and

(d) if so, how much money has been sanctioned for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) South Western Districts of Punjab namely Faridkot, Muktasar and Ferozpur are badly affected by salinisation and water logging.

Government of Punjab has proposed 4 schemes of Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) namely Modernization of Canals being fed from river Sutlej, Relining of Sirhind Feeder from RD 119700-447927, Relining of Rajasthan Feeder from RD 117900-496800 and Raising of Lining/ Bank of Sirhind Feeder. These are various stages of appraisal.

Earlier, the State Government had sent a concept note on the proposals for relining of Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder, to overcome water logging and salinity problems in the districts of Faridkot, Muktasar and Ferozpur and sought financial assistance.

Since the Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in 1996, Central Loan Assistance/Central Assistance of Rs. 99.33 crore, Rs. 24.72 crore and Rs. 13.50 crore have been released to three ERM projects *viz*. Remodeling of UBDC System (completed in 2006-07), Extension of Kandi Canal, Stage-II (ongoing with effect from 2002-03) and Rehabilitation of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch Canal (ongoing with effect from 2007-08).

Dangerous level of groundwater

1698. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the groundwater in various parts of the country which is used for drinking purposes contain dangerous level of lead as reported in media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ground water samples collected from 26 cities have been found heavily polluted; and

(d) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to make groundwater free from any lead or other pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per study conducted by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to assess the ground water quality in 35 metro cities during 2002-2007 the concentration of lead in ground water exceeding the BIS standard (50 parts per billion) is reported in certain parts of Faridabad, Delhi, Jaipur, Indore, Nagpur, Nasik, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vishakapatnam, Patna, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara, Asansol, Amritsar, Agra, Madurai, Coimbatore, Chennai, Vijayawada and Mumbai.

(d) The actions taken to free the ground water from lead and other types of pollution include:-

(i) Exploration of ground water sources free from contaminants.

(ii) Providing technical guidance to States in tackling problems of ground water quality.

(iii) Provisioning of safe drinking water to rural population under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and organisation 'of mass awareness programmes in ground water affected areas.

(iv) Directions issued by CPCB to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards and setting up of network of water quality monitoring stations and common effluent treatment plants.

Problem of access water of various dams

1699. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that access water of various Dam, situated in the Bhutan is creating serious trouble during the rainy season in some of the districts in Assam, creating artificial floods;

(b) if so, whether Government has considered any study and taking steps to protect the life and properties of the people of those areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Assam informed during monsoon 2007 that the releases of large quantities of water from various hydroelectric projects such as Tala, Chukha, Kurichu etc., undertaken by the Govt. of Bhutan, when rivers were already in spate, caused severe devastation in India, particularly in Baksa and Barapeta districts of Assam. Similar apprehensions were raised by Government of Assam during the monsoon of 2008.

(b) and (c) Central Water Commission (CWC) has submitted a report on the release of excess water from Bhutan *vis-a-vis* floods in lower Assam in July, 2007. The report indicated that the